

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
BEFORE THE RHODE ISLAND ETHICS COMMISSION**

**In re: Brian Mathieu,
Respondent**

Complaint No. 2018-12

ORDER

This matter having been heard before the Rhode Island Ethics Commission on February 26, 2019, pursuant to 520-RICR-00-00-3.16 Informal Disposition (1011), and the Commission having considered the Complaint herein, the arguments of the parties, and the proposed Informal Resolution and Settlement, which is incorporated by reference herein, it is hereby

ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED

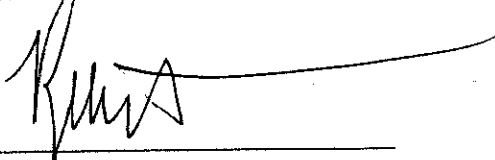
THAT, the Commission approves the Informal Resolution and Settlement as submitted;

THAT, the Commission incorporates by reference herein the Findings of Fact and Admissions, and the Conclusions of Law, set forth in the Informal Resolution and Settlement;

THAT, by participating in the Pascoag Fire District Board's votes on 16 separate occasions to approve the payment of bills which included bills from his employer, Burrillville Motors, Inc., the Respondent violated Rhode Island General Laws § 36-14-5(a) and (d); and

THAT, the Respondent is ordered to pay a civil penalty in the amount of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000).

Entered as an Order of this Commission,



Chairperson

Dated: February 26, 2019

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
BEFORE THE RHODE ISLAND ETHICS COMMISSION**

Complaint No. 2018-12

**Brian Mathieu,
Respondent**

RECEIVED
RHODE ISLAND
ETHICS COMMISSION
19 JAN 31 AM 11:01

INFORMAL RESOLUTION AND SETTLEMENT

The Respondent, Brian Mathieu, and the Rhode Island Ethics Commission (“Commission”) hereby agree to a resolution of the above-referenced matter as follows:

I. FINDINGS OF FACT & ADMISSIONS

1. The Respondent was first elected to the Board of Fire Commissioners (“Board”) for the Pascoag Fire District (“Fire District”), a municipal elected position, in September 2014, and has served continuously in said capacity at all times relevant hereto.
2. In his private capacity, the Respondent has been employed since 2011 by Burrillville Motors, Inc. (“Burrillville Motors”), as a mechanic and tow truck driver.
3. Between November 2015 and March 2018, Burrillville Motors performed various repair and towing services on the Fire District’s emergency vehicles and submitted monthly bills to the Fire District for approval by the Board.
4. At monthly Fire District meetings, three categories of bills are presented to the Board for approval of payment.¹ A list is presented for each category and delineates the specific person and/or vendor and the payment owed. The Board takes a single vote to approve the payment of all bills in each category. Burrillville Motors may appear on the list of any of the three categories of bills.
5. Between November 2015 and March 2018, the Respondent voted on 16 separate

¹ All bills are grouped into one of three categories: (1) Administrative bills for operational expenses, (2) Fire & Rescue bills for purchases related to fire and rescue services, and (3) Manual checks for stipends and storm duty payments. At some meetings, only two categories of bills are presented.

occasions to approve the payment of bills which included bills from his employer, Burrillville Motors: November 10, 2015; January 12, February 9, March 8, May 10, June 14, September 13, October 18, November 15, and December 13, 2016; April 11, May 9, June 13, August 15, and December 12, 2017; and March 20, 2018.

II. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. As a municipal elected official, the Respondent was, at all relevant times, subject to the Rhode Island Code of Ethics in Government, pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 36-14-4(1).

2. By participating in the Fire District Board's votes on various dates set forth supra to approve the payment of bills which included bills from his employer, Burrillville Motors, the Respondent violated Rhode Island General Laws § 36-14-5(a) and (d).

III. SETTLEMENT

Pursuant to the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the parties hereby agree, subject to the approval of the Commission, to the following, pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 36-14-13(d) and 520-RICR-00-00-3.16 Informal Disposition (1011):

1. The Commission shall enter an Order and Judgment that the Respondent violated R.I. Gen. Laws § 36-14-5(a) and (d) by participating in the Fire District Board's votes on 16 separate occasions to approve the payment of bills which included bills from his employer.

2. The Respondent agrees that, pursuant to the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Prosecution will recommend the imposition of a civil penalty in the amount of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00). The Respondent agrees to the payment of said civil penalty.

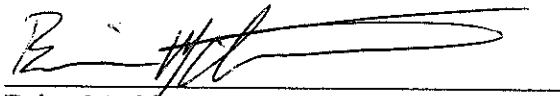
3. The above terms represent the full and complete Informal Resolution and Settlement for Complaint No. 2018-12.



Teresa Giusti, Esq. (Bar No. 8006)

Commission Prosecutor

Dated: 2/13/19



Brian Mathieu

Respondent

Dated: 1-28-19